



# Jobs Act for Public K-12 & Higher Education Institutions

## Hargis Engineers

# H A R G I S

### About the Jobs Act:

*The Jobs Act for Public K-12 and Higher Education Institutions was funded through the 2010 Supplemental Capital Budget – ESHB 2836 Section 1016. \$50 million was given to Commerce. Commerce awarded 77 grants totaling \$42.5 million. For more information:*

[www.commerce.wa.gov](http://www.commerce.wa.gov)

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As soon as Hargis Engineers, a local Seattle engineering firm specializing in K-12 schools and universities, heard about the Washington State Department of Commerce's Jobs Act they acted.

"We attended a Washington chapter meeting of the Council of Educational Facility Planners International and had an opportunity to hear Representative Hans Dunshee speak and he explained the Jobs Act program and how the grant funds could help schools and universities improve their energy efficiency," said Brian Haugk, a Hargis Engineers principal. He added that after the meeting his firm invited over 20 school districts capital project managers to their offices to learn how they could use the Jobs Act funds.

Because of tight budgets, many of Hargis' public sector clients were only undertaking projects that needed immediate attention such as failed boilers. The Jobs Act money was a great benefit to K-12 schools and universities. It allowed project managers to do more comprehensive projects with long-term energy efficiency savings, said Haugk. These projects reduced both utility and maintenance costs.

The Jobs Act funds also benefited Hargis Engineers. Approximately 35 percent of their workload involves Washington and Oregon schools and local governments. The

company works throughout the U.S as well as internationally and employs approximately 100 people. Like many Washington companies, Hargis Engineers felt the recession's impacts. In 2008, the company experienced its first layoff since 9/11. The next year, their work load was steady.

"The recession has gone on longer than expected," said Haugk. The Jobs Act helped fill a gap in Hargis Engineers workload. They hired two experienced professional engineers and kept existing staff employed doing Jobs Act work.

"The Jobs Act kept six staff busy for almost a year," said Haugk.

The Jobs Act was definitely a good program for everyone involved, Haugk said. All of the K-12 schools and universities infrastructure projects employed people in the construction industry as well as in the design industry. The improvements created better teaching and learning environments for the students, he said. Schools indoor air quality improved because of new HVAC equipment and controls and new classroom and gymnasium lights raised the quality of lighting significantly. The improvements also helped reduced maintenance costs. Much of the new equipment has fewer parts that need replacing than the old equipment, thus reducing labor costs, said Haugk.

